

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: OSWER Priorities FY04/RCRA FY04 Mutual Performance Agreement

FROM: Marianne Lamont Horinko [signed 05/06/03]
Assistant Administrator

TO: Regional Administrators
Superfund National Policy Managers
RCRA Senior Policy Advisors
UST Division Directors

Over the past few months we launched a series of initiatives to enhance and strengthen our waste and cleanup programs. In FY04 we plan to build upon the groundwork laid in FY03 and move forward implementing these initiatives. I am committed to working closely with you to accomplish all of our national objectives, with a special emphasis on four key areas where your leadership and performance are critically important. These four areas are (1) Revitalization (2) One Cleanup Program (3) Resource Conservation Challenge and (4) Homeland Security. A brief overview of the four key areas and our plans for the RCRA 2004 Mutual Performance Agreement follow.

(1) Revitalization - Our revitalization initiative is a means of applying the best characteristics of brownfields across all of our cleanup programs. The Land Revitalization Agenda provides a menu of over 60 good ideas that the Agency may take to ensure that land revitalization is an integral part of all EPA cleanup programs and that reuse is considered early in the cleanup process. We are working with each of the Regions to develop Regional Reuse Plans. These Plans represent both a commitment by EPA managers and staff to make land revitalization a part of the way the Agency conducts and oversees cleanups of waste sites and provide an opportunity for the Regions to showcase the extensive activities they already have underway in order to further revitalization goals.

(2) One Cleanup Program (OCP) - Revitalization is just one of the attributes shared by all our cleanup programs. Site assessment, cleanup technologies, levels of cleanup, and measures of success are some others. The One Cleanup Program is EPA's vision for how different cleanup programs at all levels of government can work together to improve the coordination, speed, and effectiveness of cleanups at the nation's contaminated sites and ensure that activities and results are effectively coordinated and communicated to the public. The One Cleanup Program established activities to achieve the following three main goals: 1) enhance cleanup consistency and effectiveness; 2) develop better measures of progress; and 3) build key information systems. Regional offices will be key players in all three areas.

(3) Resource Conservation Challenge(RCC) - The RCC challenges businesses, manufacturers, and consumers to reduce priority chemicals, increase pollution prevention and recycling, and conserve energy and materials. Originally announced as 70 projects, we are expanding to create an Agency-

wide program with GPRA objectives focused on resource conservation. In the next few months, working closely with the Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substance, other HQ offices, Regions, and states, we will announce the first round of objectives and new voluntary partnerships. Building voluntary partnerships with businesses, manufacturers, and environmental groups is the key to institutionalizing the RCC as a long-term Agency program.

(4) Homeland Security/Enhanced Emergency Response - The possibility of future terrorist incidents has made homeland security/enhanced emergency response a priority not only in OSWER but government-wide. We will continue to improve and enhance our preparedness and response capabilities for nationally significant incidents. During FY04, we plan to establish a National Decontamination Team, procure specialized equipment, provide advanced training for responders, and maintain, develop, and enhance existing preparedness and response programs. We will also play a key role in implementing the new National Approach to Response. We will work closely with the Regions to promote consistency in these areas on a national level.

Additionally, please note that in FY04, our first Mutual Performance Agreement (MPA) between each Region and the Office of Solid Waste (OSW) will be put in place. The MPA replaces the annual Beginning of Year Plan process. The MPA will address and establish performance commitments for both the Regions and OSW. Each MPA will be based on the yearly MPA Headquarters guidance that provides RCRA program expectations for OSW and the Regions.

Thank you for your continued hard work on behalf of our programs. All of the Regions provided valuable support to the development of these key programs and your ongoing involvement is basic to their success.

cc: Administrator Christine T. Whitman
Deputy Administrator Linda J. Fisher